Life Cycle of a Student Profile

This document describes the complete life cycle of a Student Profile entity. It outlines the states and transitions a profile undergoes throughout its existence in the system, provides detailed explanations of each stage, and includes a state diagram reference for visualization. By documenting this cycle, the project ensures consistency, traceability, and a clear understanding of how student data is managed within the Professional Portfolio application.

States & Transitions

The Student Profile entity undergoes multiple states during its existence in the system. Each state defines a clear role in the candidate's lifecycle, ensuring that the platform can handle creation, updates, temporary deactivations, and permanent removal.

- **Created**: When a new Candidate registers on the platform. This state signifies the initialization of the StudentProfile entity.

- **Active**: The default state of a profile once registration is complete. The profile is visible, can be updated, swiped on, and matched.

- **Updated**: A sub-state of Active. This occurs when the user edits skills, preferences, portfolio items, or uploads new material. It maintains continuity while reflecting new information.

- **Archived**: A dormant state where the profile is hidden but preserved. Common scenarios include graduation, temporary deactivation, or system-enforced suspension.

- **Deleted**: A terminal state where the profile is permanently removed. All matches, associations, and records tied to the profile are invalidated or cascaded to preserve system integrity.
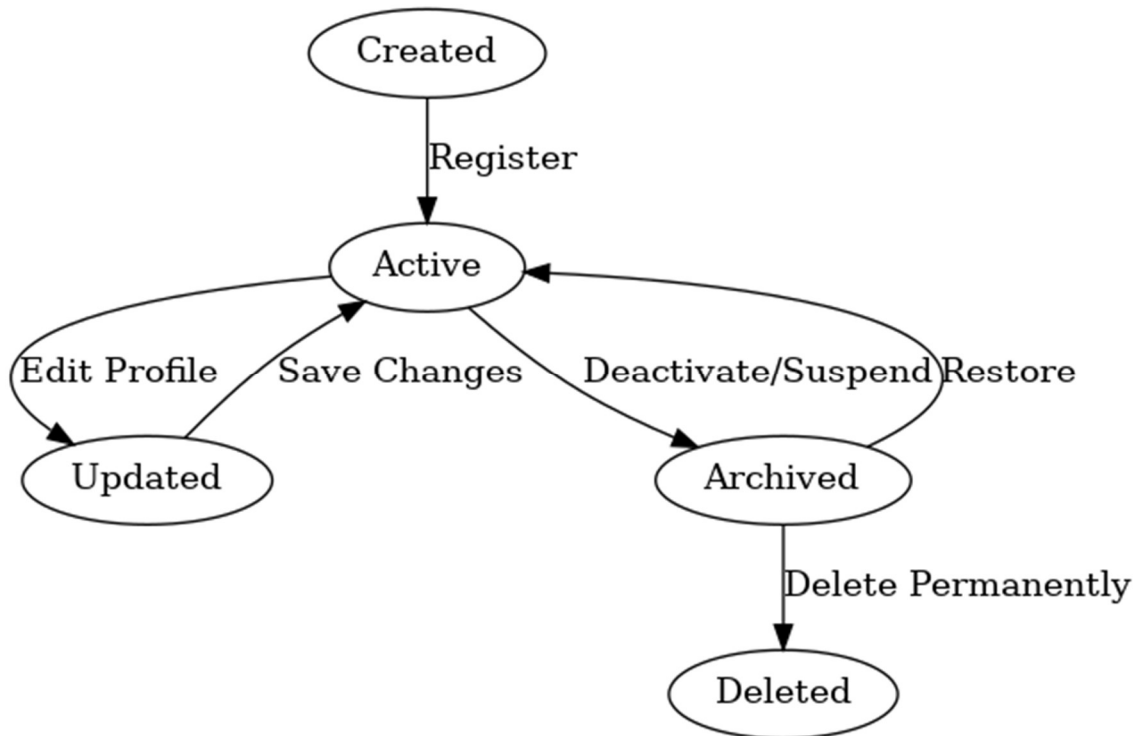
Explanation of Transitions

- Created → Active: Registration completed with all required information. The candidate becomes discoverable in the system.

- Active → Updated: Triggered when a candidate edits their profile information, ensuring that recruiters always see the latest version.

- Active → Archived: Occurs when a candidate deactivates their account or if the system suspends the profile temporarily.

- Archived → Active: Profile restoration by the candidate, allowing visibility and interactions to resume without data loss.

- Archived → Deleted: Candidate permanently deletes the account, or the system enforces removal after extended inactivity.

State Diagram

The following diagram illustrates the state machine of the StudentProfile entity. It shows the valid transitions between states and highlights that 'Deleted' is the terminal state.

Created

Register

Active

Edit Profile   Save Changes   Deactivate/Suspend   Restore

Updated   Archived

Delete Permanently

Deleted

The design of the Student Profile Lifecycle balances flexibility with system safeguards. Profiles may evolve (through updates), pause (archival), or terminate (deletion). Each state has a rationale that ensures both candidate control and recruiter reliability:

- Active/Updated ensures recruiters always see fresh, reliable data.
- Archived preserves continuity without forcing permanent deletion.
- Deleted enforces privacy, compliance, and respect for user choice.

This lifecycle supports regulatory compliance (e.g., GDPR 'right to be forgotten') while aligning with user expectations for control over their professional presence on the platform.